

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-13 AID-20 RSR-01 /139 W

----- 015229

O R 211140 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4665

INFO WHITE HOUSE

CIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4536

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, MARR, MASS, MCAP, LA, US,  
VN, XC

SUBJECT: THE FOURTH MONTH OF THE LAO CEASEFIRE

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REF: VIENTIANE 3890

THIS REPORT INCLUDES CEASEFIRE SEVENTEENTH WEEK WRAP- UP.

BEGIN SUMMARY: POLITICAL - MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO LAO PARTIES RESUMED JUNE 15 AFTER PRIME MINISTER ENJOINED CHIEF RLG AND LPF NEGOTIATORS TO ACCELERATE TALKS WITH VIEW TO COMPLETING NEGOTIATIONS BY JULY 1. NEGOTIATORS HAVE BEEN MEETING ALMOST DAILY AND HAVE ADDRESSED PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS AT ISSUE. THEY HAVE HIT SOME SUBSTANTIAL SNAGS, MOST SERIOUS OF WHICH AT THIS TIME IS LPF DEMAND TO STATION TROOPS NEAR LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR ITS MINISTERS. MILITARY - ON THE MILITARY SIDE, THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY LOW, AS VARIOUS ACTIVITY STATISTICS INDICATE. NORTH LAOS CONTINUED VERY QUIET, WHILE LOCALIZED COMBAT FLARED UP SOMEWHAT IN THREE AREAS OF THE SOUTH - AT SAN SOAK ENCLAVE, WHICH WAS EVACUATED AFTER ENEMY ATTACK; IN RICE- RICH AREA EAST OF KENGKOK; AND NEAR TOWN OF SOUKHOUMA, WELL SOUTH OF PAKSE. NO ADDITIONAL ENEMY FENCE- BUILDING TO DELINEATE ZONES OF CONTROL WAS NOTED. END SUMMARY.

#### I. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

FOLLOWING WEEKS OF WAITING, MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO LAO PARTIES RESUMED AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE.

ON JUNE 14, SOUVANNA TOLD THE CHIEF RLG AND LPF NEGOTIATORS TO " COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS ON A PROTOCOL DETAILING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT BY JULY 1." SINCE JUNE 15, NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON NEARLY DAILY BASIS, WITH SPECIFIC ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED IN A METHODICAL FASHION. SO FAR, THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED: THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT; THE JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL; NEUTRALIZATION OF LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE; AND, MOST RECENTLY, MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE SETTLEMENT. GENERAL AGREEMENT HAS APPARENTLY BEEN REACHED ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF CABINET PORTFOLIOS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF INTERIOR, WHICH BOTH SIDES WANT. THE LPF CONTINUES TO INSIST ON HOLDING THE POST OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER - A POSITION NOT CALLED FOR BY THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES STILL EXIST REGARDING THE ICC ROLE AND STATIONING LPF TROOPS NEAR VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG TO PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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SECURITY FOR LPF MINISTERS. SOUVANNA HAS DIRECTED THAT ISSUES WHICH CANNOT BE RESOLVED BY THE TWO PLENIPOTENTIARIES SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO HIM FOR RESOLUTION. SHOULD SOUVANNA BE UNWILLING TO CONCEDE, PHOUMI WILL REFER THE ISSUE TO SAM NEUA IN AN EFFORT TO HAVE HIS INSTRUCTIONS MODIFIED. THUS, SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ONCE AGAIN BEGUN IN VIENTIANE, AS FOURTH MONTH OF LAO CEASEFIRE DRAWS TO AN END.

#### II. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. DURING FOURTH MONTH, NORTH LAOS REMAINED VERY QUIET AND NEARLY ALL GROUND INCIDENTS REPORTED WERE LOCALIZED ONES IN THE SOUTH. IN MR III, MUONG PHALANE FRONT ALONG ROUTE NINE REMAINED QUIET, NOTWITHSTANDING LATE MAY LPF LETTER THREATENING AN

ATTACK. DESULTORY CLASHES AND ATTACKS BY FIRE CONTINUED IN RICE-RICH AREA EAST OF KENGKOK. FARTHER NORTH, WEEKS OF SKIRMISHING CULMINATED IN EVACUATION OF SAN SOAK ENCLAVE AFTER ENEMY ATTACK. IN MR IV, FIGHTING PICKED UP SOMEWHAT IN AREA WELL SOUTH OF PAKSE, NEAR MEKONG RIVER VICINITY TOWN OF SOUKHOUMA. ( LPF PERMREP IN VIENTIANE HAS INDICATED THAT LPF INTEND TO SEEK ENCLAVE STATUS FOR AREA AROUND SOUKHOUMA.) THERE REMAIN ONLY TWO REPORTED INSTANCES OF ENEMY FENCE- BUILDING TO DELINEATE ZONES OF CONTROL.

2. DURING SEVENTEENTH WEEK SINCE CEASEFIRE, THERE WERE ONLY 13 GROUND COMBAT INCIDENTS REPORTED ( PRELIMINARY), DOWN FIVE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK. ALL BUT ONE OCCURRED IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THREE WERE CONSIDERED MAJOR ( LOSS OF SAN SOAK ENCLAVE, CLASHES NEAR SOUKHOUMA INVOLVING INCREASED FRIENDLY ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES), ALTHOUGH CASUALTIES WERE LOW AND NO IMPORTANT POSITIONS WERE CEDED. RLAFL FLEW 4 COMBAT SORTIES, ON ONLY TWO DAYS OF THE WEEK, COMPARED TO 18 DURING PREVIOUS WEEK. HIGHLIGHT WAS RALLYING, AND SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC EXPLOITATION, OF PL OFFICER AND 8 SOLDIERS IN EASTERN MR V. PL LIEUTENANT DENOUNCED DRV AGGRESSION AND ITS CONTINUED OVERWEENING PRESENCE IN LAOS.

3. THE GENERALLY STABLE LOW LEVEL OF MILITARY CONFLICT IS DISPLAYED BY FOLLOWING TABLE OF INDICATORS:

	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH
	FOUR WKS	FOUR WKS	FOUR WKS	FOUR WKS
GROUND COMBAT INCIDENTS	455	191	81	101

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MAJOR INCIDENTS ONLY	67	35	7	9
FRIENDS KIA	160	72	32	35
ENEMY KIA ( SEE NOTE)	186	104	8	48
FRD ARTY ROUNDS FIRED	3,695	2,692	136	530
T-28/ AC-47 SORTIES	1,030	320	166	124
AIR CONTRACT FLYING HRS	13,613	11,157	11,101	10,044

( NOTE: AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, ENEMY CASUALTY FIGURES CANNOT BE CONFIRMED.)

4. ANOTHER GAUGE OF THE CEASEFIRE'S EFFECTIVENESS IS THE FOLLOWING TABLE WHICH SHOWS SHARP DECLINE IN AMMUNITION DRAWN BY FAR UNITS FROM FAR CENTRAL AND REGIONAL DEPOTS SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, IN COMPARISON WITH WAR- TIME ISSUE RATE:

AMMUNITION WITHDRAWALS FROM DEPOTS AS PERCENT OF AVERAGE MONTHLY WAR- TIME RATE

	MAR	APR	MAY
RIFLE ( M-16)	40	23	19
MINIGUN ( AC-47 SPOOKY)	18	5	6
MACHINEGUN ( M-60)	50	15	6
GRENADE LAUNCHER ( M-79)	24	29	12

MORTAR (60 MM)	30	19	7
MORTAR (81 MM)	34	5	7
MORTAR (4.2 IN.)	43	12	2
HOWITZER (105 MM)	24	20	3
HOWITZER (155 MM)	17	1	0
HAND GRENADE	26	11	0.1
ANTI-TANK (66 MM LAW)	45	25	27
CLAYMORE MINE	43	13	20
DEMOLITION (C-4)	90	55	47
DYNAMITE	276	107	48
BOMB (250 LB.)	22	7	0.1
BOMB (500 LB.)	16	7	0.1
DEAN			

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**To:** STATE INFO WHITE HOUSE  
CIA  
BANGKOK  
JAKARTA  
LONDON  
MOSCOW  
NEW DELHI

OTTAWA  
PHNOM PENH  
SAIGON  
WARSAW  
CINCPAC  
CINCUSARPAC  
CINCPACAF  
CINCPACFLT  
DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI  
CDR USSAG NKP  
CDR AF F ADVON UDORN  
JEC PARIS  
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